

"Some people say those lakes have no bottom. There's good fishing, but very few people go there. There's something strange about those lakes, like they are haunted." (Rudolfo A. Anaya: Bless Me, Ultima)

This is BILK # 37, September 1990. Subscription is DM 15 for 6 issues. Address: Ulrich Magin/ Stuhlbruderhofstr. 4/ 6704 Mutterstadt/ West Germany.

BEHEMOTH: ● Loch Morar: The Sunday Times (1 July, Travel p.8) has a report by Neil McLean on Arisaig. He mentions the Morar monster in a few lines: "I met an old man... 'The old folk,' he said - and he must have been 70 himself - 'always talked about a monster in the loch. But I don't know,' he laughed to show a single fang... 'Perhaps there is not enough whisky around these days for people to see it anymore.'"

● Lake Okanagan: According to a report in the Saudi Gazette (22 July, p.16) a Japanese crew will hunt the monster. The Canadian beast had been observed two times in July, one time by business man Bob Pearson. While driving over Kelowna floating bridge with a friend, he noticed a monster that disturbed the mirror-like surface of the lake. The creature was about 15 m long, it was the first time he saw it. Monster expert Arlene Gaal told Reuters a 6-member crew from Tokyo's Nippon TV had chartered three sonar-boats, a houseboat and a helicopter for the search. We wish them good luck, adding that according to Cryptozoology, 1989, John Kirk, member of the British Columbia CZ Club had the good luck to spot the monster 6 times in only 4 weeks in August 1989! Though the descriptions read like simple boat wakes, surely an experienced scientific cryptozoologist would not...or would he?

● Loch Ness: Lots of stuff on Loch Ness expeditions in Cryptozoology 1989. And Nessletter, Rip Hepple's excellent newsletter on the latest events at the loch, reports a sighting on April 23, 1990 (# 97). Several witnesses observed a large head and neck about a quarter of a mile away. The same issue of Nessletter also discusses a recent video taken of Nessie.

● Bibliography: A review of Meurger's book in THE LEY HUNTER, 111, 1990, p.24., a review of Frere's Loch Ness in Fortean Times 54, 1990, p.66.

ISIS: ● Bibliography: In a reversal of traditional male/female roles, American singer Madonna uses "merman" as luring sirens in her show (Macho Madonna, interview in Elsevier, Dutch magazine, 28 July, p. 80). - In a humorous account in the Observer, 22. July, p. 57, Christopher Brasher relates his adventure of hunting for a river nymph in the Thames.

LEVIATHAN: ● Pacific Ocean: According to a report in the American tabloid Weekly World News, reprinted in Fortean Times 54, p.34, an Indonesian trawler has caught the dorsal fin (73 feet long!) of a 300 ft long ichthyosaur. The Surabaya was trawling over the Marianas trench, when they caught the "section" of the fin that had been ripped from a "sea serpent" by lightning. Skipper S. Gama, thought at first it was a piece of a submarine, but zoologist Yayasan Adnan examined the thing in Singapore and called it "truly the greatest single discovery in scientific history". FT speculates that this is an embellished version of the 1977 capture of a decomposed basking shark by the Japanese off New Zealand.

● Barry, South Glamorgan, Wales: The Times (24 July, p.6) has a photo of fossil dinosaur footprints at the beach of the Welsh town. I think it was Katherine Briggs who once speculated that similar finds after severe storms could have started dragon and sea serpent tales.

● Bristol Channel, UK: Rip Hepple's Nessletter (# 98) has a new report on a sea serpent. Sometime late in 1959, a man observed a serpent in the River Usk. He saw, "standing in the mud, a long necked creature of considerable size". He pointed it out to a friend, who also saw it. The story is a recollection from Val Smith, who had talked to the witness at the time.

● Bibliography: Fortean Times 54, p. 29, on the Weston-Super-Mare sea serpent, on p. 46, a fine discussion between Heuvelmans and Meurger on myths in cryptozoology. The INFO Journal 60, June 1990, on pp. 14 - 20, reprints the original texts on the Stronsa sea serpent find of 1808.

KRAKEN: ● Gijón, Spain. Three German papers covered different versions of an

dpa-report on a "giant octopus" capture in Asturias, Spain (Rheinpfalz, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Rhein-Zeitung, all 25 July). I have not found the incident mentioned in any Spanish paper. On July 23, several fishermen caught a 130 kilogrammes giant squid (for that it was) with arms 8 m long on the beach near Gijón in the Biskaya. The catch was then exhibited at the fish auction hall at Tazones and attracted many sightseers. The fishermen believe that the animal came to the surface because it was dying. dpa (a German press agency) says that "giant octopuses" usually live at depths of 200 - 400 m and can reach a length of 18 m and a weight of 1000 kg. Only one other giant squid was ever caught in Spanish waters, a 9.5m, 256kg animal that was fished by two doctors off Luanco in July 1968 (Woods: Guinness book of animal facts and feats, 1972, p.313). Luanco is only 20 miles from Gijón.

USO: The excellent new book by Paul Devereux, Earth Lights Revelation, has been published as paperback by Blandford (Villiers House, 41/47 Strand, London WC2N 5JE, Britain). The book covers all kinds of ghost lights, including many examples of lights over the sea and over lakes. A very interesting chapter deals with Scottish "earth lights", many of them were observed at Loch Leven, which is also a monster haunt. As I have speculated before, lights and monsters are two expressions of the elemental forces of bodies of water throughout the world. Today, the dragon is interpreted as living animal, while the ghost light is turned into a flying saucer. Now I generally assume that at the bottom of these myths lie misinterpretations and legends, but Paul Devereux makes a very convincing case for the existence of a genuine unknown phenomenon, the "earth light". The book sells for 7.95 Pounds, and I recommend it to any fortune and cryptozoologist enthusiast who tries to understand the phenomena we deal with in a broader context.

MARINE LIFE: ● Whales: April-5 ft porpoise lived for 6 weeks in Hull harbour, UK (Observer, 15.4.,p.2g) - 20.4.-5 sperm whales beached at South Hutchinsons Id., Florida (Arab News, 21.4.,p.1) - June-mass death of dolphins in the Adria, Italy (Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 22.6.) - June-a fin whale was living for one week off Bismarck, West Germany (taz, 20.6.,p.4; Süddeutsche Zeitung, 23.6.; Rheinpfalz, 23.6.; Rhein-Zeitung 23.6.; Neue Zürcher Zeitung 24.6.,p.11c; Times, 23.6.,p.7a) - July-23 grey whales stranded in the Gulf of Alaska (Saudi Gazette, 19.7.,p.16) - July-60 pilot whales stranded in Tasmania (Saudi Gazette, 25.7.,p.16)
● Sharks: German attacked by hammerhead shark, Gt Barrier Reef (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung 12.6.,p.7a) / human feet found in atiger shark caught off Florida (Saudi Gazette 26.5.,p.16c) / At Mossel Bay, South Africa, a white shark attacked and killed a woman (The Times, 26.6.,p.11a; Rheinpfalz 26.6.) / large schools of sharks in the Adria, Italy (Rheinpfalz 19.6.; Süddeutsche Zeitung 19.6.) / On July 7, a 500 kg (basking?) shark caused a panik in Marseille harbour, France (taz 12.7.,p.4ab)
● Crocodiles: 3 m croc devours a man at Groote Eylandt, North Australia (Rhein-Zeitung 15.5.,p.4) / croc kills two hunters in Swaziland (Saudi Gazette 16.5.,p.5a; Arab News 17.5.,p.16)

CRYPTOZOLOGY: ● Yeti- The German TV programme "Verstehen Sie Spaß?", on March 31, hoaxed a yeti-story from the Rhone glacier, Switzerland. Tourists were told a yeti was on the loose, and host Kurt Felix posed in a fur coat making funny noises. Most of the tourists saw and believed.

● The Japanese Journal of Ichthyology 36, 4, 1990: 385 -390, reports the discovery of a new species and genus of squalid shark from Japan. Two specimens were caught of Japan on two occasions in 1986. (Credit: G. van Leusden)

FOLKLORE: ● Sunken cities off Cornwall, Pursuit 21: 4, 1988: 158 - 164.

● Indian raindance causes torrents of rain, Rheinpfalz, 2.6.; Arab News, same date?

This, again, all for today. This BILK comes early as I'm about to move house, etc. Anyway, letters should still be addressed to my Mutterstadt address. Next BILK will appear in November. I hoped to you like this one.